

Key findings on the influence of *parents* on School Safety

Several respondents consider parental involvement at home and in school as crucial for student discipline. Following are some of the key influencing factors that are highlighted.

- Lack of parental involvement in the child's life can be harmful to discipline and a general feeling of wellbeing. Decline in parent time spent with children, apathy, and passive permissiveness of negative behavior are some of the patterns that are noted among parents at various schools.
- While parental involvement is highlighted as crucial, problems resulting from overt parental interference are discussed.
- Students often have to abide by separate discipline methods at home and school, the former sometimes reinforcing negative behaviors through acts like domestic violence, while the school is attempting to control violent behaviors.
- Lack of student discipline or academic achievement is frequently an outcome of inadequate parenting skills.
- Parents of troubled children seldom attend parent-teacher-association (PTA) meetings and frequently have issues of their own to deal with.

While there are steps that schools can take with regard to some problems like low PTA attendance and poor parenting skills, there is not much that schools can do about other problems like parental apathy. However, it is very useful for schools to be aware of these factors so that they can accommodate related information into their policy discussions pertaining to school safety.